

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A separator, for a solid polymer electrolyte type fuel cell wherein multiple single cells are laminated and made up of a solid polymer electrolyte layer and catalyst electrode layers, gas diffusion electrodes and separators disposed on either side of the solid polymer electrolyte layer, the separator comprising:

a substrate; wherein at least a part thereof to make contact with a gas diffusion electrode is covered with

an intermediate layer, comprising a single layer film of one compound selected from the group consisting of metal carbides, metal nitrides and metal carbo-nitrides or a laminate film or a mixture film including two or more compounds selected from the same group, on the separator substrate; and

an electrically conducting hard carbon film, having a micro-Vickers hardness or a Knoop hardness of not less than 8 GPa, on the intermediate layer and in contact with a gas diffusion electrode.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The separator for a solid polymer electrolyte type fuel cell claimed in according to claim 21, wherein a metal of the metal carbide, metal nitride or metal carbo-nitride of the intermediate layer is an element or two or more elements of group IVa, Va or Via.

Claims 4 through 6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The separator for a solid polymer electrolyte type fuel cell claimed in according to claim 1, wherein at least one element among the elements

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constituting the separator substrate or the intermediate layer is included in the conducting hard carbon film.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Cancelled).